D28

INQUIRE=DOC18D
ITEM NO=00133987
ENVELOPE
CDSN = LGX400 MCN = 92149/38501 TOR = 921492153
PTTCZYUW RUEKJCS9498 1492151-CCCC--RUEALGX.
ZNY CCCCC
HEADER
P 282151Z MAY 92
FM JOINT STAFF WASHINGTON DC
INFO RHLBAAA/USCINCSO QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
RUEALGX/SAFE
P 282154Z MAY 92
FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 0217
INFO RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
RUEBWJA/USINS WASHDC
RUEHIA/USIA WASHDC 2500
RUEBMRA/USCUSTOMS WASHDC 0185
RUEADWW/DIRONDCP WASHDC
RUEADWW/NSC WASHDC
RUEHNA/DEAHQS WASHDC
RHLBAAA/USCINCSOUTH QUARRY HEIGHTS PM
BT
CONTROLS
C O N F I D E N T I A L LA PAZ 008676

STATE FOR ARA AS ARONSON, INM AS LEVITSKY
STATE PLEASE PASS TO AID FOR ADMINISTRATOR ROSKENS
DEA FOR ADMINISTRATOR BONNER
NSC FOR MCNAMARA AND BEERS; ONDCP FOR GOV. MARTINEZ
CUSTOMS FOR COMMISSIONER HALLETT
USIA FOR DIRECTOR CATTO; INS FOR COMMISSIONER MCNARY
INS PLEASE PASS TO BORDER PATROL
DOD FOR AS DUNCAN; SOUTHCOM FOR GEN. JOULWAN

FROM AMBASSADOR BOWERS

E.O. 12356: DECL: OADR
BODY
TAGS: PREL, SNAR, BL
SUBJECT: KUDOS FOR OPERATION GHOST ZONE

1. CONFIDENTIAL -- ENTIRE TEXT.

2. AS YOU KNOW, IN OPERATION GHOST ZONE WE ARE ENGAGED WITH THE BOLIVIAN GOVERNMENT IN ONE OF THE MOST AMBITIOUS, MULTI-AGENCY, BILATERAL COUNTERNAROCTICS (CN) OPERATIONS EVER ATTEMPTED. IT IS TOO EARLY TO DECLARE VICTORY IN THIS ON-GOING OPERATION, BUT I WANT PERSONALLY TO CALL TO YOUR ATTENTION THE UNPRECEDENTED CN SUCCESSES WE HAVE SEEN TO DATE.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
IS/FPC/CDR Date: 5/26/95
MR Cases Only:
EO Citations
TS authority to:
( ) CLASSIFY as ( ) S or ( ) C OADR
( ) DOWNGRADE TS to ( ) S or ( ) C OADR
[X] RELEASE [X] DECLASSIFY
( ) EXCISE ( ) DECLASSIFY IN PART
( ) DENY
( ) DELETE Non-Responsive Info
FOIA Exemptions
PA Exemptions

3. SINCE GHOST ZONE BEGAN SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, WE HAVE SEIZED WITHIN THE CHAPARE REGION OVER 1000 KILOS OF COCAINE BASE, 6000 LITERS OF AGUA RICA, 28000 KILOS OF COCA LEAF, 46000 KILOS OF DRY PRECURSOR CHEMICALS, AND OVER 12000 LITERS OF AMMONIA/DIESEL AND SULFURIC ACID. WE HAVE ALSO SEIZED WEAPONS, COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT, AND VEHICLES. WE HAVE DESTROYED 11 AIRSTRIPS AND OVER 150 LABS. AS A RESULT OF GHOST ZONE WE HAVE 35 CONFIRMED NARCO AIRCRAFT FORCED FROM THE CHAPARE AND HAVE SEIZED/FORCED DOWN OR DESTROYED 9 ADDITIONAL AIRCRAFT.

4. GHOST ZONE HAS MASSIVELY DISRUPTED NORMAL NARCO OPERATIONS IN THE CHAPARE. IT IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY RISKY AND COSTLY FOR THE NARCOS TO MOVE THE RAW MATERIALS AND PRODUCTS OF THEIR TRADE. THEY HAVE BEEN FORCED TO RELOCATE THEIR PRODUCTION CENTERS INTO INCREASINGLY ISOLATED AREAS AND TO REASSESS THEIR TRANSPORT METHODS. FLIGHTS MOVING THE COCAINE BASE AND PASTE HAVE DROPPED DRAMATICALLY AND THE PRICE OF RAW COCA ITSELF HAS FALLEN TO NEAR THE BREAK EVEN LEVEL FOR CAMPESINO PRODUCERS. GHOST ZONE HAS YIELDED A WEALTH OF INTELLIGENCE ABOUT TRAFFICKER NETWORKS, COMMUNICATIONS AND TRAFFICKING TECHNIQUES WHICH WE USE TO ADJUST OUR OPERATIONS TO KEEP MAXIMUM PRESSURE ON THE TRAFFICKERS. AND, THANKS TO GHOST ZONE, WE HAVE SEEN A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE GOB'S CN CAPABILITIES AND CONFIDENCE.

5. OUR SUCCESSES WOULD NOT BE HAPPENING WITHOUT THE SIGNIFICANT COMMITMENT OF RESOURCES AND THE CLOSE-KNIT, MUTUALLY REINFORCING EFFORTS OF ALL CONCERNED AGENCIES AND ORGANIZATIONS. SUCH COOPERATION IS RARE IN MY EXPERIENCE, BUT IT IS A LOGICAL OUTGROWTH OF THE OVERLAPPING, COMPREHENSIVE, ERADICATION-INTERDICTION-ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT-PUBLICAWARENESS CN STRATEGY FRAMEWORK WE HAVE BUILT IN BOLIVIA. GRADUALLY ESCALATED AS PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES BECAME AVAILABLE, OUR COMPREHENSIVESTRATEGY WAS TESTED UNDER FIRE IN LAST YEAR'S OPERATIONS SAFEHAVEN, HUSKY AND PIQUE MACHO II. DEA SNOWCAP, INTEL AND HF MONITORING TEAMS; U.S. CUSTOMS P-3 UNITS; INM/NAS LOGISTIC SUPPORT; NAS- AND MILGROUP-SUPPORTED UMOPAR AND BOLIVIAN MILITARY RIVERINE AND AIRBORNE UNITS; BORDER PATROL BORTAC UNITS; DEA-MILITARY TAT TEAMS; DOD-, MILGROUP- AND SOUTHCOM-SUPPORTEDMEDRETUNITS ANDMOBILE TRAINING TEAMS; PRO-ACTIVE USIS MEDIA MANAGEMENT AND CREATIVE USAID ALTERNATIVE DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS EACH HAVE BEEN INTEGRAL TO GHOST ZONE'S PROGRESS, AND THIS IS ONLY A BRIEF LIST OF CONTRIBUTORS. I AM PROUD TO PASS MY THANKS AND PERSONAL KUDOS TO ALL OF OF THE DEDICATED, HARD-WORKING, THOROUGHLY PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL FROM THROUGHOUT THE USG THAT ARE MAKING GHOST ZONE POSSIBLE. I LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUING

OUR S'ICCESSFUL EFFORTS. WITH BEST REGARDS.

BOWERS
ADMIN
BT

#9498

NNNN